Dokploy Self-Hosted Deployment Guide 2026: Complete Tutorial

Self-hosting has become one of the biggest trends in modern application deployment. As cloud hosting costs continue to rise and concerns about vendor lock-in grow, developers and businesses are increasingly looking for solutions that provide full control over their infrastructure.

Dokploy has emerged as one of the most promising self-hosted deployment platforms available in 2026. Built around Docker and designed for simplicity, Dokploy enables users to deploy applications, manage databases, configure domains, and automate deployments from a single dashboard.

Unlike traditional cloud platforms that charge monthly subscription fees, Dokploy allows you to run applications on your own server while maintaining complete ownership of your infrastructure.

In this guide, you'll learn everything you need to know about self-hosting applications with Dokploy, from setup requirements and deployment workflows to best practices and security recommendations.

What is Dokploy?

Dokploy is an open-source Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) that simplifies self-hosted application deployment.

It allows users to:

- Deploy applications from Git repositories
- Manage Docker containers
- Host databases
- Configure SSL certificates
- Connect custom domains
- Monitor deployments
- Automate CI/CD workflows

Many developers consider Dokploy a self-hosted alternative to platforms such as:

- Heroku
- Railway
- Render
- Fly.io
- Coolify

Its primary goal is to provide cloud-like deployment simplicity while maintaining infrastructure ownership.

Why Choose Self-Hosted Deployment?

Self-hosting offers several advantages over managed cloud platforms.

Full Infrastructure Control

You decide where applications run and how resources are allocated.

Reduced Hosting Costs

Instead of paying platform subscription fees, you only pay for your server.

Better Privacy

Applications, databases, and customer data remain under your control.

No Vendor Lock-In

You can migrate infrastructure whenever needed without platform restrictions.

Custom Configuration

Servers, networking, security policies, and deployment workflows can be customized to meet specific requirements.

Dokploy System Requirements

Before deploying applications with Dokploy, ensure your server meets the necessary requirements.

Minimum Requirements

- Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
- 2 CPU cores
- 4 GB RAM
- 20 GB SSD storage
- Docker installed
- Root or sudo access

Recommended Requirements

For production environments:

- 4+ CPU cores
- 8 GB RAM or higher
- SSD-based storage
- Automated backups
- Reliable internet connection

Dokploy works well on:

- DigitalOcean
- Hetzner
- Vultr
- Linode
- AWS
- Google Cloud
- Dedicated servers

Setting Up Dokploy

The installation process is straightforward.

Step 1: Prepare the Server

Update the operating system:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

This ensures all packages are current.

Step 2: Install Docker

Dokploy relies on Docker to manage applications and services.

Install Docker:

```
curl -fsSL https://get.docker.com | sh
```

Verify installation:

```
docker --version
```

Step 3: Install Dokploy

Run the official Dokploy installation script:

```
curl -sSL https://dokploy.com/install.sh | sh
```

The installer automatically configures required services and launches the platform.

Step 4: Access the Dashboard

Open your browser and visit:

```
http://your-server-ip:3000
```

Create an administrator account and complete the initial setup.

Connecting Your Server

Once Dokploy is installed, add your server through the dashboard.

Navigate to:

Servers → Add Server

Provide:

- Server name
- IP address
- SSH credentials

Dokploy will verify connectivity and register the server.

After registration, deployments can be managed directly from the dashboard.

Deploying Applications

One of Dokploy's biggest strengths is application deployment automation.

Connect a Git Repository

Dokploy supports:

- GitHub
- GitLab
- Bitbucket
- Gitea

Connect your repository and select the deployment branch.

Configure Build Settings

Define:

- Runtime environment
- Build commands
- Environment variables
- Deployment strategy

Deploy

Click **Deploy** and Dokploy will:

- Pull source code
- Build the application
- Create Docker containers
- Launch services

This process requires minimal manual intervention.

Managing Databases

Most modern applications require a database.

Dokploy supports:

- PostgreSQL
- MySQL
- MariaDB
- MongoDB
- Redis

Databases can be created directly from the dashboard.

Benefits include:

- Centralized management
- Simplified backups
- Easy credential management
- Resource monitoring

This eliminates the need for separate database administration tools.

Domain Configuration

Applications become accessible through custom domains.

Examples:

- app.example.com
- api.example.com
- dashboard.example.com

Within Dokploy, users can:

- Add domains
- Configure routing
- Manage subdomains
- Configure redirects

The process is significantly simpler than manual server configuration.

SSL Certificate Automation

HTTPS is essential for security and SEO.

Dokploy automatically integrates with Let’s Encrypt to:

- Generate SSL certificates
- Enable HTTPS
- Renew certificates automatically

This reduces administrative overhead while improving security.

Monitoring and Logs

Monitoring is crucial for maintaining application reliability.

Dokploy provides:

- Application logs
- Deployment logs
- Container logs
- Resource monitoring

Administrators can quickly identify:

- Build failures
- Runtime errors
- Resource bottlenecks
- Configuration issues

This visibility helps maintain production stability.

Security Best Practices

When self-hosting with Dokploy, consider the following recommendations.

Enable Firewall Protection

Allow only required ports.

Use Strong Passwords

Protect dashboard access with secure credentials.

Enable Regular Backups

Back up databases and application data frequently.

Keep Dokploy Updated

Install updates regularly to receive security patches.

Secure SSH Access

Use SSH keys instead of password-based authentication whenever possible.

Advantages of Dokploy Self-Hosting

Developers choose Dokploy because it provides:

- Complete infrastructure ownership
- Lower long-term costs
- Modern deployment automation
- Docker-native architecture
- Git-based workflows
- Scalable hosting options

These benefits make Dokploy suitable for startups, agencies, SaaS businesses, and independent developers.

Common Use Cases

Dokploy is commonly used for:

SaaS Applications

Deploy customer-facing software efficiently.

Agency Projects

Manage multiple client websites from one dashboard.

Internal Business Tools

Host private applications securely.

Developer Portfolios

Launch personal projects quickly.

Startup Infrastructure

Reduce hosting expenses while maintaining flexibility.

Conclusion

Dokploy has become one of the most compelling self-hosted deployment platforms available in 2026. It combines the convenience of modern PaaS solutions with the flexibility and control of self-managed infrastructure.

With Docker-native deployment, Git integration, database hosting, SSL automation, domain management, and centralized monitoring, Dokploy provides everything developers need to deploy and manage applications efficiently.

For anyone seeking a cost-effective and scalable alternative to traditional cloud deployment platforms, Dokploy is an excellent solution worth considering.